

Rev. Lynne Ogren
November 26, 2020

Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT
Thanksgiving Day 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

I hope you are enjoying the photos that illustrate the words and songs of our worship today! I'm sure you can figure out the message of the gospel reading, and if not, I invite you to watch this week's Children's Time video for Thanksgiving!

The other two readings and many of the hymns refer to the wonder and beauty of the natural world to inspire thanks giving. In the second reading we are pointed to God's abundant gifts that are intended to feed our own generosity.

This letter says, "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness."

During the gospel reading, we saw a picture of wheat. One seed of wheat produces a stalk with many, many more seeds. Some will be used to make bread, and others will be replanted to grow more wheat.

Think about how many seeds are in an apple. If one seed can grow a tree, and one tree can bear dozens of apples, year after year, each with its many seeds containing the potential for that many more trees, that is a picture of generosity at its finest!

God does the same for us. We are created by God with the potential for so much goodness! We have received from God the abundance of God's blessings. We give thanks to God by the ways we share those blessings with others.

We may think a small act of kindness, a few coins or dollars given, or a word of grace spoken at just the right moment is not very generous. But God infuses these gifts with the potential for so much more.

Our Creator planned the intricacies of every flower, designed the complimentary relationships in each ecosystem, and made a way for adaptations and survival in the natural world.

We are created that way, too. Our bodies, our capacity to create, the desire to belong and interact with others, these are all gifts from God.

Let us spend this Thanksgiving in awe and wonder at the world God made, including ourselves. And even with the limitations that can seem constraining these days, let us give our thanks to God by using and sharing what we have been given, trusting in God's power to make them grow into something amazing!

Thanks be to God! Amen